



## Weekly Drought Brief Monday, June 23, 2014

---

### **CURRENT CONDITIONS**

**Fire Activity:** CAL FIRE has responded to 2,489 wildfires across the state since January 1, burning 18,242 acres. This year's fire activity is well above the year-to-date average of 1,593 wildfires on 14,465 acres. Cal FIRE responded to over 200 new wildfires last week, including the Shirley Fire (Kern County) contained at 2,545 acres and the Stoney Fire on Fort Hunter Liggett (Monterey County), which burned over 5,000 acres. While drought conditions have increased wildfires, additional firefighters and equipment mobilized earlier than normal have allowed CAL FIRE to contain these wildfires quickly in most cases.

**Snow survey:** The final manual [snowpack survey](#) of the season conducted on May 1 showed California snowpack at 18% of normal. A more [recent update](#) using automated devices shows snowpack at 0% of normal as of June 9.

**Reservoir Levels (% capacity):** [Reservoir Levels](#) as of June 19 remain low, including: Don Pedro 51%; Exchequer 29%; Folsom Lake 51%; Lake Oroville 45%; Millerton Lake 63%; New Melones 31%; Pine Flat 40%; San Luis 36%; Shasta 44%; and Trinity Lake 45%. An update of water levels at [other smaller reservoirs](#) is also available.

**Vulnerable Water Systems:** The California Department of Public Health is providing technical and funding assistance to help several communities facing near-term drinking water shortages. The Department is also monitoring water systems across the state to determine where else it can provide support. Already, over \$6 million has been identified for specific emergency drinking water projects, out of \$15 million appropriated for this purpose by emergency drought legislation passed by the State Legislature in March. Updated information can be found at the [CDPH Drinking Water Program](#) website.

**Recent precipitation:** No significant rain fell over the last week and no rain is expected this week.

### **KEY ACTION ITEMS FROM THIS WEEK**

- **Emergency water curtailments continue:** No new water curtailments were issued by the State Water Resources Control Board last week. Site inspections have continued in the Sacramento and San Joaquin River watersheds to ensure that water diversions are actually curtailed where required. The Water Board is allowing water users who have received curtailment notices to indicate whether their curtailed water is needed for human health or safety. These water users are being asked to describe their needs, as well as their efforts to obtain alternative water supplies. The Water Board released on Friday a proposed emergency rulemaking to protect senior water right holders, and will consider this proposal at its July 1 hearing.

- **Open burning banned across the state:** Open burning is now prohibited on 31 million acres of land across the state for the next several months, due to a [burn ban that CAL FIRE](#) has directed each of its unit chiefs to implement. This ban on open burning in state responsibility areas (outside of cities and towns) reduces wildfire danger amidst extremely dry conditions from the drought. CAL FIRE unit chiefs are also urging residents to approach any use of fireworks during the Fourth of July holiday very cautiously and to comply with all local laws regarding use of fireworks.
- **Fish relocations continue:** California Department of Fish and Wildlife staff [evacuated trout from a major hatchery](#) on the American River last week to avoid a massive die-off of fish due to increased water temperatures in the hatchery. In all, over two million fish are being relocated and released earlier than normal by the Department due to drought conditions.
- **Stronger water conservation requirements being considered:** Last Tuesday, the Water Board [heard from water agencies](#) serving California's cities and towns about their efforts to reduce water use during the drought. These updates complemented the Water Board's statewide survey of water agencies' conservation actions, which [showed slightly reduced water use in May](#). Following the survey and Board hearing, emergency regulations to increase water conservation statewide are being drafted for consideration by the Water Board at its July 15 Board meeting. The Governor's recent [Proclamation of Continued Emergency Drought](#) has called on residents to limit outdoor irrigation and prevent wasteful water practices and directed water agencies to prevent water waste.
- **Emergency food aid:** The California Department of Social Services has provided over 80,600 boxes of food to date for counties impacted by the drought. The Department is working with local food banks to ensure that this food aid is targeted to residents most impacted by the drought.
- **Water saving tips promoted across the state:** The state's water conservation campaign, Save Our Water, has launched a new user-friendly website that can be easily accessed by phones and other personal devices: [SaveOurWater.com](#). The site promotes our "Don't Waste Summer" campaign and provides a new conservation tip each day for the 100 days of summer. Supporters can follow and share Save Our Water's [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) feeds for this public awareness campaign.
- **State government announces funding for wildfire prevention:** CAL FIRE will provide counties and local fire councils [funding for wildfire prevention](#), using proceeds from an assessment that has been established on property in wildfire-prone areas. The \$10 million in funds will be awarded through a one-time grant process.
- **Water efficiency funding programs advance:** The California Department of Food and Agriculture has begun accepting applications for its [State Water Efficiency and Enhancement Program \(SWEET\)](#), which provides \$10 million in competitive grant funding for water and energy conservation measures on California farms. The California Department of Water Resources also issued draft guidelines for its [Water-Energy grant program](#), which provides \$19 million to local water agencies for an array of efficiency projects. Both programs were enabled by emergency drought legislation passed into law in March.

- **Low-Interest Loans Available for Water Recycling Projects:** The State Water Board continues to accept applications for \$800 million of [very low-interest \(1%\) loans for water recycling projects](#) that can be completed during the next three years. This funding program, announced earlier this spring, will accept applications through December.
- **Governor's Drought Task Force:** The Taskforce continues to meet daily to take actions that conserve water and coordinate state response to the drought.

## **Local Government**

- **Local Emergency Proclamations:** A total of 46 local Emergency Proclamations have been received to date from city, county, and tribal governments, as well as special districts:
  - **Counties:** Glenn, Inyo, Kern, Kings, Lake, Madera, Mendocino, Merced, Modoc, Santa Barbara, San Luis Obispo, San Joaquin, Siskiyou, Sonoma, Shasta, Sutter, Tulare, Tuolumne, Yuba, and Mariposa.
  - **Cities:** Brooktrails Township-Mendocino County, City of Willits-Mendocino County, City of St. Helena-Napa County, City of Calistoga-Napa County, City of American Canyon-Napa County, City of Santa Barbara-Santa Barbara County, City of Montague-Siskiyou County, City of Live Oak-Sutter County, and San Juan Bautista
  - **Tribes:** Hoopa Valley Tribe in Humboldt County, Yurok Tribe in Del Norte County, Tule River Indian Tribe in Tulare County, Karuk Tribe in Siskiyou/Humboldt Counties, Sherwood Valley Pomo Indian Tribe, Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation
  - **Special Districts:** Lake Don Pedro Community Services District, Placer County Water Agency (PCWA), Twain Harte Community Services District, Carpinteria Valley Water District, Sonoma County Water Agency, Meiners Oaks Water District, Mariposa Public Utility District, Montecito Water District, Goleta Water District, Tuolumne Utilities District, Nevada Irrigation District
- **Water Agency Conservation Efforts:** The Association of California Water Agencies [has identified](#) several hundred local water agencies that have implemented water conservation actions. These water agencies [are responding to the drought](#) by implementing conservation programs, which include voluntary calls for reduced water usage and mandatory restrictions where water shortages are worst.
- **County Drought Taskforces:** A total of 26 counties have established drought task forces to coordinate local drought response. These counties include: Butte, Kern, Kings, Lake, Madera, Mendocino, Merced, Modoc, Monterey, Nevada, Orange, Placer, Plumas, Sacramento, San Joaquin, San Luis Obispo, San Mateo, Santa Barbara, Siskiyou, Stanislaus, Sutter, Tehama, Tulare, Tuolumne, Yolo, and Napa. The Hoopa Tribe has also established a drought task force.

## DROUGHT RELATED WEBSITES FOR MORE INFORMATION

### [Drought.CA.Gov](#): California's Drought Information Clearinghouse

State's Water Conservation Campaign, [Save our Water](#)  
Local Government [Drought Clearinghouse and Toolkit](#)

California Department of Food and Agriculture, [Drought information](#)  
California Department of Water Resources [Current Water Conditions](#)  
California Data Exchange Center, [Snow Pack/Water Levels](#)  
California State Water Resources Control Board, Water Rights, [Drought Info and Actions](#)  
California Natural Resources Agency, [Drought Info and Actions](#)  
California Department of Public Health, Drinking Water [CDPH Drinking Water Program](#)  
California State Water Project, [Information](#)

[U.S. Drought Monitor](#) for current conditions throughout the region  
[U.S. Drought Portal](#), National Integrated Drought Information System (NIDIS)  
National Weather Service [Climate Predictor Center](#)  
USDA Drought Designations by County [CA County Designations](#)  
USDA Disaster and Drought Assistance Information [USDA Programs](#)  
Small Business Administration Disaster Support: [www.sba.gov/disaster](http://www.sba.gov/disaster)